

MILL OF KINTAIL  
CANADIAN ARTS & PIONEER MUSEUM  
(The Tait McKenzie Memorial)

R.R. No. 1, ALMONTE, ONTARIO

2 Feb 60

Dear Elizabeth,

Bess, Irene and I would be honoured if you will accept the position of Director of the Museum here, which is incorporated in Ontario as a non-profit organisation.

Under the law, there must be three Directors. From the date of incorporation in 1957, the third director has been Lt Col. Howard Bush who has held no more than a nominal position which he assumed in order that we might get started. The Directors are explicitly excluded from personal financial responsibility; all of which in practice, and in the letter is taken by Irene and by me as owners of the property lent to the Museum.

If you accept I will notify Howard Bush who can either withdraw altogether or become an Associate Member of the Museum. In the latter case, he would be the first member of any kind (other than the Officers) as we have not yet decided on the advisability of having any substantial number of members. //

— OVER —



If you accept, your duties will be light, as  
June and I are always on the spot and you  
need work only as mood and occasion may  
offer. You are pre-eminently the right person,  
in our opinion, and you would be, in effect,  
an original Director, since Burt's part  
was no more ~~that~~ than a formality and  
recognised as such. active

There are no other officers at present.  
The Honorary President is W<sup>h</sup> Macintosh Bell;  
The Honorary Vice-President, Jr. Arthur Lamb,  
died two years ago nearly, and no person  
holds that Honorary position. Instead, General  
Howard Graham, lately Chief of the Canadian  
Army General Staff, who was our speaker  
on R T M Day 1956, has become our  
Honorary Counsel. He is a Q.C. Our  
Auditor is George Wexill who has come on  
nearly all R T M Days, and whom I knew  
from early days in Japan.

We feel it is advisable, if possible, to  
hold the Director to a minimum and to  
keep them as far as possible within a family  
type of circle; that is, one including James  
family, or mine, or, of course, that of Tait McKenzie.



The other reason for writing is to say that the CBC TV show on the Man of Kintail will be repeated on Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, at 5<sup>00</sup> PM.

We are wintering here at the Mill in reasonable comfort, and gain access by car from time to time following a blowing out of snow by a neighbouring farmer.

Hoping for your acceptance,

yours sincerely,

Jamie Leys.

Herewith is a copy  
of the Objects of the Museum.



**MILL OF KINTAIL**  
**CANADIAN ARTS & PIONEER MUSEUM**  
(The Tait McKenzie Memorial)  
**R.R. No. 1, ALMONTE, ONTARIO**

16th February, 1960.

Dear Bess:-

Thank you for accepting the position as Director. When you are able to spend some time here, when there is no crowd, we can discuss details. We shall notify you of the official date of turnover in a month or so. We do not want this to be a burden to you, nor would you want it to be a sinecure. If something drastic should happen to Irene and to me simultaneously, I am afraid it is then that you would have to do most to ensure the continuity of this place and of the ideas now taking shape here. The point in having others as Honorary officials is that in case of necessity there will always be some who can offer experienced help and advice, <sup>and</sup> I am asking Howard Bush to become an Honorary Council member rather than a Director. Otherwise, we hope your acceptance will mean much more pleasure than pain.

The man on TV tabloid who is, according to your useful reporting, about to write a book, is presumably Ben Shek. He did some research for the film and prepared an "original script". This script was completely scrapped, but he manages to keep the credit for it. We are glad to have Tait McKenzie brought to public attention. The problem of when to publish more complete information on the Mill is rather a trial. The mention in the film is just about right, and it can be brought in more and more later when we are better able to cope with visitors.

We will be pleased to welcome your group on 21st May - tea at 50¢ each. Normal admission (introduced in 1958 after your visit here) is now 25¢ each. Please use your judgment on this. If it adds a little pleasure to have the admission complimentary, please accept this as your invitation. If it does not make any difference at your end, we would accept the admission on behalf of the Museum, Incorporated. With the addition of works by RTM received from the University of Pennsylvania last September, the Museum is really a showplace. (Nothing is more exquisite than your Athlete.)

Irene and I would like you to be here for RTM Day (28th May), but will certainly sympathize if you do not feel like coming back so soon after the 21st. Would you kindly let us know your intentions, as we would want you to stay here if possible overnight (we could put up one or two of your friends too on that night).

As to your kind offer for us to make requests for pictures of Philadelphia during your Easter week end holiday, I think it best to leave it to your good judgment.

Irene joins me in sending our kindest regards.

Sincerely,

*Jamie Leys*

J.F. Leys.

Miss Elizabeth Pitt,  
55 Collegeview Avenue,  
Toronto 7, Ontario.



Box 548

Almonte Ont.

23 Nov

Dear Elizabeth & Bob -

The slides arrived this morning - found your note inside. Prints not yet here. I put some pictures in post this morning too.

We are off to Philadelphia tomorrow morning - may we take the slides with us & have duplicates made & then return yours to you on our return about mid-Dec? We'll be careful with them & have them handled properly.

The speaker this year at



the dinner is the Lord  
Ancrum, son of Lord Letham  
who was, I think, at the  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniv. 7 Sep. The  
Belmore Stratford Hotel is  
being re. built & also the  
other large hotel the  
Ben Franklin being  
refurbished so dinner is  
to be at the Union League  
Club. - the 230<sup>th</sup>! Next  
year's speaker is already  
lined up - Sir Fitzroy  
MacLean who sat next  
me at the luncheon - a  
very colourful soldier -  
writer of some note.



Thank you for letting us  
see ~~the~~ your choice slides.  
You will have them  
returned promptly on our  
return home before  
Christmas.

Hope all goes well  
for you both. In  
haste.

Sincerely & love  
from  
Gene



501-190 Colin Avenue  
Toronto 7 Ontario -

August 16, 1972

Dear Mrs. Barron - "Bess":

Just a note to thank you for your hospitality yesterday and all the interesting information you gave me.

I neglected to say that in my final manuscript if I quoted you on any matter (and I wondered if that little story I hear you met Dr. MacKenzie at Atlantic City by accident might fit in somewhere when I am writing about his great interest in people and human nature) I would send you a copy of precisely what I was using for your O.K., if required.

411





I have written to John, Robert and  
Dawn Mc Kenzie and will follow  
up other addresses you gave me. I  
couldn't find the name "Hublig"  
(Ressie Bertram) in the Toronto directory.  
Perhaps they live outside the city.

Yesterday when calling the cousin  
of a friend of mine who lives in England,  
I learned that she (the cousin)  
had a step-mother who was a  
Mc Kenzie and one of the family has  
written quite an involved "Tree".  
She may be a source of information  
on the Clan Mc Kenzie but it doesn't  
sound as if they were related  
to Robert Tait as there was a  
"Kate" in the family.





I hope you have a pleasant trip  
to England. Again thank you  
for a pleasant day at Niagara  
falls in your delightful house  
and for your assistance in my  
research. The RTM chair seat  
on my second bamboo chair is  
already being admired.

I would be pleased to see  
you anytime you are visiting  
Toronto - just phone me at 481-5537  
and drop in for a cup of Tea and  
have a look thru the material  
I have on Mr. One Kenzie Mother's letter  
Sincerely <sup>2 Photo Atlantic</sup> Jean <sup>Dr. City</sup>

P.S. I would like a print of myself  
as the "Arabian" if possible! Thank you.  
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